

[29 November, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Long Distance communication service of VSNL**

**1209. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VSNL is in the race for procuring licence to start long distance communication service in the country;

(b) If so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that VSNL is among the 13 PSUs slated for disinvestment in the current fiscal year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) VSNL has filed an application with Department of Telecommunications for grant of Licence for National Long Distance (NLD) Service on 2nd November, 2001.

(c) and (d) 25% Disinvestment of VSNL to a strategic partner is currently in process and likely to be completed by January, 2002.

**Vacant post of Telephone Mechanics**

**1210. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:**

**SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 546 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April 2001, and state:

(a) whether the BSNL has filled up all 6873 vacant posts of telephone mechanics that existed on 31st March, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the balance trained personnel would be accommodated in the post of telephone mechanics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) all the 6873 vacant posts of Telephone Mechanics (redesignated as Telecom Mechanic) have not yet been filled up. However, the process of filling up the vacancies in the cadre of Telecom Mechanic is under progress.